

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 37, as follows:

As the group R of the formula X-R-X and the formula (I), for example, a straight or branched chain alkylene group such as ethylene, propylene, butylene, pentylene, hexylene, octylene, nonylene, decylene, and 1,2-propylene may be exemplified. These alkylene groups may be substituted with a substituent group such as a phenyl group or benzyl group. The group R may further include an alkylene group including an oxyalkylene group. Examples of such a group are an alkylene group including an oxyalkylene group with the group $(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_p$ and the group $(\text{CH}_2)_q$, wherein p is an integer of 1 to 5 and q is an integer of 0 to 2, bonded in any way. Preferable groups R include:

$-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_2\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-$, $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_4\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_5\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_2\text{CH}_2-$, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2-$

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 25, as follows:

89.8 g (0.15 mole) of an aqueous 30% by weight sodium ~~tetrafluoride~~ polysulfide (Na_2S_4) solution was diluted by adding 100 g of water, then 25.9 g (0.15 mole) of 1,2-bis(2-chloroethoxy) methane was dropwise added thereto at 90°C over 2 hours and the mixture was allowed to further react at that temperature for 3 hours. After the end of the reaction, the water insolubles were washed with water, then dried in vacuo at 100°C for 2 hours to obtain 33.2 g (yield: 96%) of cyclic polysulfide (i.e., vulcanization agent 3) of the formula (I), wherein R = $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, x (average) = 4, and n = 1 to 5. The number average molecular weight of the cyclic polysulfide thus obtained was 600 and the NMR data was as follows:

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (chloroform- d_1) δ : 2.9 to 3.3 (4H, CH_2S), 3.7 to 4.0 (4H, CH_2O), 4.8 (2H, OCH_2O)